

## STENT DELIVERY SYSTEM LOADING TOOL

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A removable loading tool for use with a catheter assembly wherein the  
loading tool comprises a body which defines a substantially hollow chamber. The  
substantially hollow chamber has a first portion and a second portion. The first portion  
has a first diameter sized to contain at least a portion of the catheter assembly having a  
stent mounted thereon. The second portion has a second diameter less than that of the  
first diameter. The body constructed and arranged to protect the at least a portion of the  
10 catheter assembly and the stent from undesired contact or damage during loading of a  
guide wire into the catheter assembly.

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